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Hi Simons

Furtively winking at me,
Like the eye of the Infinite;
Mischievously happy
Because it had slipped me a bit of joy
Over the wall, from "the outside."

PORTRAIT OF AN OLD ROUÉ

The seeds of his sin
Thrust tiny red roots
Among the cell-crevices of his face
Now their minute purple tendrils
Trace, on his cheeks and nose,
Vine-patterns as intricately beautiful
As his fastidious iniquities.

Hi Simons

TAK FOR SIDST

To C. S.

"Good-bye," you said, and your voice was an echo, a
promise.
You turned to go, a grey iron ghost.
The night took you.
Insubstantial as air, stronger than iron,
You were here and had gone.
Your voice was an omen, an echo.

Babette Deutsch